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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,349	10/05/2000	Aaron T. Jones	0112300/030	7826

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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,349

Applicant(s)

JONES, AARON T. *ch*

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Slot Machine With Hyperlinked Paytable Information.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 7 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 contains the limitation, "whereby selecting said symbol causes said controller to display a payable display for said selected symbol". This is a "means for selecting one of said payable displays." Since this limitation is already included in claim 1, claim 7 fails to further limit the claim.
2. Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the

Art Unit: 3714

claim(s) in independent form. Claim 10 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 contains the limitation, “whereby selecting said symbol causes said controller to display a payable display for said selected symbol”. This is a “means for selecting one of said plurality of payable displays.” Since this is already part of claim 1, claim 10 fails to further limit the claim.

3. Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 9 depends from claim 6. Both contain the limitation “wherein each of a plurality of said displays contains different payable information from other of said displays.” Since claim 9 contains the identical limitation to that in claim 6, claim 9 fails to further limit the claim.

4. Claims 13-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: These claims depend from claim 11. Each is drawn to “displaying a plurality of paytables”. Claim 11 is drawn to “displaying at least one payable”. The language in the claims should match. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 6, 7, 9 & 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 6 & 9 recite the limitation "said displays" in lines 1-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear which

Art Unit: 3714

displays this refers to. There is a payable display. Reels are displayed. Symbols are displayed. And there is a physical display device. It is impossible to tell which is meant by "said displays" in claims 6 and 9.

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 14 recites the limitation "said displays" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 14 depends from claim 11. Claim 11 discusses displaying symbols and displaying paytables. It is impossible to discern which is meant by "said displays". Further, claim 14 contains the limitation "sequentially toggling through said displays." This language is inapt. "Toggling" implies two states and no more. One may "toggle between", but may not "toggle through".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heidel et al. (US Patent Number 5,342,047) in view of Lemay (*Web Publishing in HTML 4*, Dec 1999) and Fey (*Slot Machines, A Pictorial History of the First Hundred Years*, 1983).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11: Heidel teaches a game controller (50); a display device (12) attached to the controller; at least one reel (Fig 2A) displayed on the display device; and at least one symbol displayed on the reel. There is a means (touch screen) connected to the controller for selecting a symbol. (See Fig 1.) The touch screen is a digital input device. There is a payable display (18) for the symbol stored in memory. Heidel teaches displaying the payable when the player pushes the payable area of the screen, not when the player selects a symbol. (Fey teaches the traditional appearance of the payable.)

Hyperlinked, context sensitive help is well known in the art. (Lemay, pp 10-11)

HTML is a language that can be used to create hyperlinks. A hyperlink is a link between one document and another that the user can use by selecting the link. Hyperlinks allow the user to gain information about a particular subject at a touch of a button or icon (i.e., symbol). This makes it faster and easier for a user to gain information. The less time spent searching paytables, the more time spent gambling. This leads to greater profits. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have displayed payable information about a particular symbol when it was chosen by a player via a hyperlink in order to quickly provide information to the player so that the player doesn't have to spend time searching the paytables and can spend more time gambling – thus increasing casino profits.

Claim 2: Fig 2A shows a plurality of symbols on a plurality of wheels.

Claim 5, 8: Heidel teaches displaying a payable, but does not teach the form of the payable. Fey teaches traditional form of a payable. As clearly shown in the picture of the Fey 1899 Liberty Bell slot machine, each symbol is associated with at least one payable display. This has been the industry standard for over a hundred years. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have each symbol associated with at least one payable display in order to be in line with industry standards.

Claim 6, 9: Assuming that the claim refers to payable displays, the Fey 1899 Liberty Bell clearly shows that the payable displays associated with each of the symbols is different. If “said displays”, means “display of symbols”, each symbol would by

definition be different from the other symbols. Fig 2a shows the display of reels being different.

Claim 12: Lemay (p. 368) teaches that in HTML if a page is too long to be displayed on the screen, scrolling is automatically enabled. Lemay also teaches linking to specific places within a document and automatically scrolling to that place when the link is selected. (pp. 107-114)

Claim 13: Lemay teaches that one of the most commonly used HTML structure is the list. (p. 76) The display of a list is sequencing the display of items in the list according to a sequence contained in the controller.

Claim 14: Lemay teaches the use of specific navigation links (pp. 557-559) Specific navigation links (i.e., "Next" and "Back" links) are a means for allowing the player to sequentially move through displays.

Claim 15: One of the features of hypertext (HTML) is that a document may be reached by links from multiple places. (Lemay 45-47) Each of these plurality of links is a means for selecting a single display. Allowing a user to access information from multiple places cuts search time – thus leaving more time for gambling and increasing casino profits. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided a plurality of user-selectable links to a single display in order to cut search time – thus leaving more time for gambling and increasing casino profits.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3714

Reference Name	US Patent Number	Applicability
Mandyam et al.	6,236,989	Online Help
Stupak et al.	5,851,147	Keypad
Roffman et al.	6,375,568	Internet Slot Machines

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (703) 305-3319.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary Examiner, Jessica Harrison can be reached on (703) 308-2217. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



cbc
July 2, 2002



JESSICA HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER